

12-06-00

A

Attorney's Docket No. FMC029 - 455610.29

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Box Patent Application**  
**Assistant Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): JOHN A. FITZGERALD  
MARCUS A. SMEDLEY  
HAROLD B. SKEELS  
CHRISTOPHER E. CUNNINGHAM

**WARNING:** Patent must be applied for in the name(s) of all of the actual inventor(s), 37 CFR 1.41(a) and 1.53(b).

For (title): **COLLAPSIBLE BUOYANCY DEVICE FOR RISERS ON  
OFFSHORE STRUCTURES**

---

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date 12/4/00 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL602868342US, addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Jana Foley  
(type or print name of person mailing paper)

Jana Foley  
Signature of person mailing paper

**NOTE:** Each paper or fee referred to as enclosed herein has the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 CFR 1.10(b).

**WARNING:** Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 CFR 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.

**1. Type of Application**

This new application is for a(n)

*(check one applicable item below)*

- ☒ Original (nonprovisional)  
☐ Original (provisional)  
☐ Design  
☐ Plant

**WARNING:** Do not use this transmittal for a completion in the U.S. of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4), unless the International Application is being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

**WARNING:** Do not use this transmittal for the filing of a provisional application.

**NOTE:** If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and attach **ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED** and a **NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THE FILING OF THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION**.

- ☐ Divisional.  
☐ Continuation.  
☐ Continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

**2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, or 121)**

**NOTE:** If the new application being transmitted is a divisional, continuation or a continuation-in-part of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which is designated in the U.S., or benefit of a prior provisional application is claimed, then check the following item and complete and attach **ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED**.

**WARNING:** If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c). (35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119, 365(a) or 365(b).) For a c-i-p application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier filed application and, if not, the applicant should consider cancelling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.

**WARNING:** When the last day of pendency of a provisional application falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, any nonprovisional application claiming benefit of the provisional application **must** be filed prior to the Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3).

- ☒ The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) Serial No. 60/169,438.

**3. Papers Enclosed That Are Required for Filing Date under 37 CFR 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 CFR 1.153 (Design) Application**

- 15 Pages of Specification  
9 Pages of Claims  
1 Pages of Abstract  
8 Sheets of drawing  
☐ Formal  
☒ Informal

(Application Transmittal [4-1]--page 2 of 9)

**WARNING:** DO NOT submit original drawings. A high quality copy of the drawings should be supplied when filing a patent application. The drawings that are submitted to the Office must be on strong, white, smooth, and non-shiny paper and meet the standards according to § 1.84. If corrections to the drawings are necessary, they should be made to the original

drawing and a high-quality copy of the corrected original drawing then submitted to the Office. Only one copy is required or desired. Comments on proposed new 37 CFR 1.84. Notice of March 9, 1988 (1990 O.G. 57-62).

NOTE: "Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the application number or the title of the invention, inventor's name, docket number (if any), and the name and telephone number of a person to call if the Office is unable to match the drawings to the proper application. This information should be placed on the back of each sheet of drawing a minimum distance of 1.5 cm. (1/2 inch) down from the top of the page." 37 C.F.R. 1.84(c).

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☐ The enclosed drawing(s) are photograph(s), and there is also attached a "PETITION TO ACCEPT PHOTOGRAPH(S) AS DRAWING(S)." 37 C.F.R. 184(b).

#### 4. Additional papers enclosed

- ☐ Preliminary Amendment  
☐ Information Disclosure Statement (37 CFR 1.98)  
☐ Form PTO-1449  
☐ Citations  
☐ Declaration of Biological Deposit  
☐ Submission of "Sequence Listing," computer readable copy and/or amendment pertaining thereto for biotechnology invention containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence.  
☐ Authorization of Attorney(s) to Accept and Follow Instructions from Representative  
☐ Special Comments  
☐ Other

#### 5. Declaration or oath

- ☐ Enclosed  
Executed by

(check all applicable boxes)

- ☐ inventor(s).  
☐ legal representative of inventor(s). (37 CFR 1.42 or 1.43).  
☐ joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached.  
☐ This is the petition required by 37 CFR 1.47 and the statement required by 37 CFR 1.47 is also attached. See item 13 below for fee.

- ☒ Not Enclosed.

WARNING: Where the filing is a completion in the U.S. of an International Application, but where a declaration is not available, or where the completion of the U.S. application contains subject matter in addition to the International Application, the application may be treated as a continuation or continuation-in-part, as the case may be, utilizing ADDED PAGE FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED.

- ☐ Application is made by a person authorized under 37 CFR 1.41(c) on behalf of *all the above named inventor(s)*.  
(The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be filed subsequently).

NOTE: It is important that all the correct inventor(s) are named for filing under 37 CFR 1.41(c) and 1.53(b).

- ☐ Showing that the filing is authorized.  
(not required unless called into question. 37 CFR 1.41(d))

## 6. Inventorship Statement

WARNING: If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

- ☒ The same

or

- ☐ Not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made,  
☐ is submitted.  
☐ will be submitted.

## 7. Language

NOTE: An application including a signed oath or declaration may be filed in a language other than English. A verified English translation of the non-English language application and the processing fee of \$130.00 required by 37 CFR 1.17(k) is required to be filed with the application, or within such time as may be set by the Office. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

NOTE: A non-English oath or declaration in the form provided or approved by the PTO need not be translated. 37 CFR 1.69(b).

- ☒ English  
☐ Non-English  
☐ The attached translation is a verified translation. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

## 8. Assignment

- ☐ An assignment of the invention to **FMC CORPORATION**.  
☐ is attached. A separate ☐ "COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" or  
☒ FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.  
☒ will follow.

NOTE: "If an assignment is submitted with a new application, send two separate letters-one for the application and one for the assignment." Notice of May 4, 1990 (1114 O.G. 77-78).

WARNING: A newly executed "CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)" must be filed when a continuation-in-part application is filed by an assignee. Notice of April 30, 1993, 1150 O.G. 62-64.

## 9. Certified Copy

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

country appl no. filed

country appl no. filed

country appl no. filed

from which priority is claimed

☐ is (are) attached.

☐ will follow.

NOTE: The foreign application forming the basis for the claim for priority must be referred to in the oath or declaration. 37 CFR 1.55(a) and 1.63.

NOTE: This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or International Application from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application, then complete item 18 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

## 10. Fee Calculation (37 CFR 1.16)

A. ☒ Regular Application

CLAIMS AS FILED					
Number filed	Number Extra	Rate		Basic Fee	
				37 CFR 1.16(a)	
				\$710.00	
Total					
Claims (37 CFR 1.16(c))	[ 25 ] - 20 = 5	x \$18.00	=	\$	90.00
Independent					
Claims (37 CFR 1.16(b))	[ 3 ] - 3 = 0	x \$80.00	=	\$	
Multiple dependent claim(s),					
if any (37 CFR 1.16(d))	[ ]	+ \$270.00	=		-0-

☐ Amendment cancelling extra claims enclosed.

☐ Amendment deleting multiple-dependencies enclosed.

☐ Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time.

NOTE: If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims cancelled by amendment, prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency. 37 CFR (1.16(d)).

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 800.00

(Application Transmittal [4-1]--page 5 of 9)

00730141-13030

B. ☐ Design application  
(\$320.00 or \$160.00--37 CFR 1.16(f))  
Filing Fee Calculation \$\_\_\_\_\_

C. ☐ Plant Application  
(\$490.00 or \$245.00--37 CFR 1.16(g))  
Filing Fee Calculation \$\_\_\_\_\_

**11. Small Entity Statement(s)**

☐ Verified Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is (are) attached.

**WARNING:** *"Status as a small entity in one application or patent does not affect any other application or patent, including applications or patents which are directly or indirectly dependent upon the application or patent in which the status has been established. A nonprovisional application claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) of a prior application may rely on a verified statement filed in the prior application if the nonprovisional application includes a reference to a verified statement in the prior application or includes a copy of the verified statement filed in the prior application if status as a small entity is still proper and desired." 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a).*

*(complete the following, if applicable)*

☐ Status as a small entity was claimed in prior application \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, from which benefit is being claimed for this application under:

35 U.S.C. ☐ 119(e),  
☐ 120,  
☐ 121,  
☐ 365(c),

and which status as a small entity is still proper and desired.

☐ A copy of the verified statement in the prior application is included.

Filing Fee Calculation (50%) of A, B, or C above \$\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** *Any excess of the full fee paid will be refunded if a verified statement and a refund request are filed within 2 months of the date of timely payment of a full fee. The two-month period is not extendable under § 1.136. 37 CFR 1.28(a).*

**12. Request for International-Type Search (37 CFR 1.104(d))**

*(complete, if applicable)*

☐ Please prepare an international-type search report for this application at the time when national examination on the merits takes place.

13. Fee Payment Being Made at This Time

- ☐ Not Enclosed  
☐ No filing fee is to be paid at this time.  
(This and the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be paid subsequently.)
- ☒ Enclosed
- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic filing fee  | \$ 800.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Assignment<br>(\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(h))<br>(See attached "COVER SHEET FOR<br>ASSIGNMENT ACCOMPANYING NEW<br>APPLICATION.")   | \$        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Petition fee for filing by other than all the<br>inventors or person on behalf of the inventor<br>where inventor refused to sign or cannot be<br>reached.<br>(\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.47 and 1.17(h)) | \$        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For processing an application with a<br>specification in a non-English language.<br>(\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.52(d) and 1.17(k))   | \$        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Processing and retention fee.<br>(\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.53(d) and 1.21(l))  | \$        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee for international-type search report<br>(\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(e))  | \$        |

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application that is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(d) and this, as well as the changes to 37 CFR 1.53 and 1.78, indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee must be paid, or the processing and retention fee of § 1.21(l) must be paid, within 1 year from notification under § 53(d).

Total fees enclosed \$ 800.00

14. Method of Payment of Fees

- ☒ Checks in the amount of **\$800.00 (Basic Filing Fee)**.  
☐ Charge Account No. 50-0897 for any deficiency.  
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

NOTE: Fees should be itemized in such a manner that it is clear for which purpose the fees are paid. 37 CFR 1.22(b).

## 15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

**WARNING:** If no fees are to be paid on filing, the following items should not be completed.

**WARNING:** Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No. 50-0897:

☒ 37 CFR 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)

☒ 37 CFR 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

**NOTE:** Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 CFR 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

☐ 37 CFR 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)

☐ 37 CFR 1.17 (application processing fees)

**WARNING:** While 37 CFR 1.17(a), (b), (c), and (d) deal with extensions of time under § 1.136(a), this authorization should be made only with the knowledge that: "Submission of the appropriate extension fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is to no avail unless a request or petition for extension is filed." (Emphasis added). Notice of November 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27).

☐ 37 CFR 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b))

**NOTE:** Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 CFR 1.311(b).

**NOTE:** 37 CFR 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying, . . . issue fee." From the wording of 37 CFR 1.28(b): (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

## 16. Instruction as to Overpayment

☒ Credit Account No. 50-0897.

☐ Refund

Reg. No. 27,423

Tel. No. (713) 225-7106

  
Signature of Attorney

James L. Jackson  
(type or print name of attorney)

Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, L.L.P.  
700 Louisiana, Suite 1900  
Houston, Texas 77002



- ☐ Incorporation by reference of added pages

*(check the following item if the application in this transmittal claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) (including an international application entering the U.S. stage as a continuation, divisional or C-I-P application) and complete and attach the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED)*

- ☐ Plus Added Pages for New Application Transmittal Where Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed

Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Plus Added Pages for Papers Referred to in Item 4 Above

Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Plus "Assignment Cover Letter Accompanying New Application"

Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Statement Where No Further Pages Added

*(if no further pages from a part of this Transmittal, then end this Transmittal with this page and check the following item.)*

- ☒ This transmittal ends with this page.